

was never completely annihilated. Were it so, mankind would have ceased to exist.

Then, within the savage in the cave, the drive of this Inner Source was strong enough that, in order to express to his fellowmen that inherent God Idea within, he was forced to develop an articulation and thus form words from sounds.

Over this long period of evolution, the voice and the speech have become more pliable tools in attempting to set free the "imprisoned splendor" of the God-Self in man.

Fortunately, to help in this evolution, there have been the *Morses* and the *Masters* who have pointed out the road to greatness; the "fire-pillars" in the dark pilgrimage of mankind who have stood as heavenly signs—ever-living witnesses of what has been—prophetic tokens of what still may be—the revealed embodied possibilities of human nature.

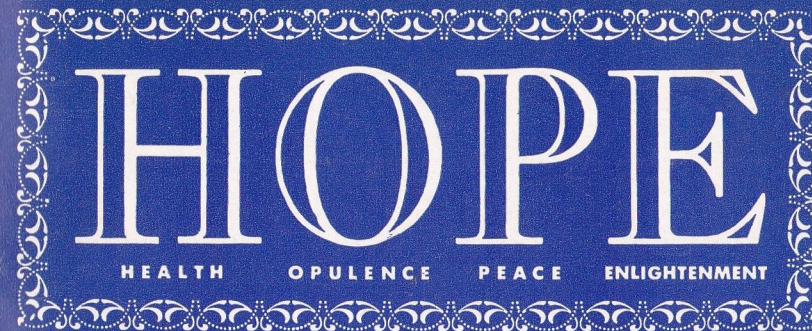
These heroes, geniuses, saints and martyrs, in the medical profession, the religious orders, the educational channels, the world of art, literature and music, and specifically in the world of science and invention who contribute to the comfort of the people, even to the most mundane things as mattresses, easy chairs, automobiles and vacuum cleaners, are the *externalizers*, and are the receiving sets for the potential God Ideas in the universe. These are the "few" who choose to step into the unknown and force Truth to draw back her veil and thus reveal more of the Light of her Presence upon the field of exploration. These are the *benefactors* of the race.

All men are animated by the same God Presence, though very few *utilize* the *Powers* of that God Presence to *energize* and *manifest* God Perfection. The great majority are willing to rest content in the hard-earned findings of the "few." These are the *beneficiaries* of God's Omnipresent Power of GOOD.

* * * * *

ISLAND OF DREAMS

Island of Dreams, thou magic rendezvous of sleep;
 A gem of beauty studded in the crown of night;
 Gently, oh, how gently do we creep
 Along thy moonlit shores near lost to sight
 Amid the leafy bowers that murmur low
 With sighing winds and night birds' coo.
 Live on, thou magic isle of dreams,
 And let us drift, in quiet sleep, to you.



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BENEDICTION

Now 'til we meet another day,
 May God's great Angels with us stay
 To ever raise our consciousness on high;
 That all of life is blessed as we pass by.
 Thus we do God's Most Holy Will,
 And our own Plan Divine fulfill.
 May the Light of God surround us
 Like a halo all around us,
 'Til we attain our Vict'ry bright
 In our Ascension's Holy Light.

Also in this issue: The Power of Love and Gentleness; The Nature of Religion; Shakespeare and Truth; An Adoration to Mary, the Mother of Jesus; The Holy Bible—Its Teachings and Symbols—Part 3; Poem—Journey's End; Of Time and Angels; God Externalized.

A BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE EXPANSION OF
 SPIRITUAL ETHICS AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL PEOPLES

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JOURNEY'S END

Along a lane, beside a stream,
Hidden in among the pines,
Stands a pretty little cottage
Built on quaint old-fashioned lines.
Many times I've paid a visit
To this shrine among the trees
Where the birds of love are singing
As their songs float on the breeze.

In that quaint old-fashioned cottage
Lives a mother and her son;
Unpretentious in their living
'Cause they live with God—as one.
And their philosophic teaching
Does a radiation pour
Out to every human being
Who might chance to pass the door.

Here's a word about the mother,
If perchance you seek to know—
Really she's the grandest person;
Here is why I love her so.
She taught me life is worth living,
For God never lets you down;
E'en though others we have trusted
Often make us fret and frown.

Her son's an artist; in his scenes
He attempts God's Way to show.
The result—a perfect blending—
Form and color all aglow.
There you see upon the canvas
God's Great Light that never fails
Shining out through trees and flowers,
Proving Love that e'er prevails.

So there is a wondrous reason
Why I love this cottage dear;
And the two who bid you welcome
When you go with heart sincere.
In my deepest heartfelt longing,
Naught I want but to express
Gratitude to these two loved ones
For my joy and happiness.

Truly, does it seem, undoubted,
That my journey's end is here;
For when friends like these surround us,
God, it seems, is very near.
In this Inner radiation,
Which all else on Earth transcends,
Man attains his greatest Vict'ry,
As, rejoicing, he ascends.

VIOLET FREEMAN

THE POWER OF LOVE AND GENTLENESS

by Charity Masters

Among the Jewels in God's great Kingdom of Perfection, Love and Gentleness are two of the most precious because when they are cultivated and guarded, they allow the purpose of embodiment to be fulfilled; namely, to embody the very Nature of God and express the Christ Principle that is within every human heart.

In the tumultuous living of the outer world, it is impossible to hear the "still small voice" from within unless the energy which comes into each individual as the Life Essence remains gentle and peaceful; for the moment that the energy becomes disturbed, the voices of the outer appearance world intrude and the Voice of the God Presence cannot be heard.

Mankind have looked upon Love, Peace, and Gentleness as negative qualities, and yet it takes a great deal more strength and self-control to remain calm, quiet, kindly, and at peace when imperfect conditions are brought to the attention, than it does to open one's self to all the irritations, anxieties and the appearances of imperfection. However, that is not the path that leads to mastery.

When the gentle positive feelings of kindness and love flow forth from an individual, through the power of magnetic attraction, that one draws only GOOD into his world. Why? Because the thoughts and feelings each one has about persons, places, conditions and things, after being directed forth must eventually return to their creator (the one who sent them forth). If these thoughts and feelings were not sent out in gentleness and love, they will return with an accumulation of distress into that individual's world.

Mankind has given very little thought to the intelligent little beings who work in each one of the four elements (earth, water, air, and fire). These are the tiny messengers who bring the many blessings of the Godhead to the evolutions of this planet. The natural instinct of these beings is to rush into an atmosphere that is most like that of the Father's House, and thus they are more than willing to bring special gifts to those whose self-control radiates an aura of love, beauty, kindness, peace, and gentleness. These beings are instrumental in providing for mankind his food, clothing, homes, appliances, and all things that are a blessing to life, and since they are compelled to serve mankind by Cosmic Law, it is not too difficult to understand their rebellion when they are forced to work in the impurity and imperfections that man has created. It is well worth all the effort an individual cares to make to cultivate those qualities of Love, Gentleness, and blessing which will make friends and happy companions of

the beings of these four elements. The distressing things which occur in Nature are the results of the accumulation of man's viciousness through thought, feeling and action which these beings of Nature finally endeavor to throw off. For our own protection and happiness, let us learn to be gentle and kindly, and let God's own Nature of Divine Love flow through us to bless, not only the elements, but every part of life we contact.

No individual will ever attain mastery until he has learned to do all things through the Power of Divine Love. This is the only attribute that cannot be used by those who do not serve the constructive way of life, and is a protection without parallel. When Love is called into action, it dissolves, by its very power, the imperfections that have intruded upon the lifestream. The great Master Jesus said: "Love ye one another as I have loved you." And also: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven (which is the Kingdom of Love and Harmony) and truly all things will be added!"

Many times when an individual says: "Oh, I love everyone," this Love is just a mental activity conveyed by so many words. Love is a feeling from the *heart* wherein lies that great Ray from the Heart of God through which He has given man the free will to use life as he chooses. Love is gentle—but positive. Love is kindly—but firm. Love is Wisdom in its highest form. Love is Purity. Love does the Will of God. Love proves the exactness of the Law. Love ministers to all. Love transmutes all less than itself into Perfection. Love is the Supreme Power of the Universe. Let us use it to set ourselves and our dear Earth FREE!

One of the great Masters of Wisdom has said: "Love should not be qualified with sentimentality which is changing and vacillating. Pure Divine Love is changeless and constant. It is the one Virtue of the Universal God Presence "I AM" into which all other Virtues blend. It is the highest expression of the Nature of God, and, in time, will be the highest expression of man also. Divine Love, unlike human love, is not grasping—but giving; it is not variable—but constant. This feeling and substance of Divine Love is the cause and core of all creation, as well as the sustenance of such creation, and when that creation has served its purpose for being, its ultimate etherealization in dignity and honor is accomplished by that same Divine Love. One focus of that Divine Love is your own "I AM" Presence, and such a Presence is also anchored within the heart of everyone. Expression and expansion of this Divine Love upon and through the planes of experience in which a self-conscious intelligence lives is truly the "reason for being" of such an intelligence. Until that full expression of the Nature of God is so made manifest, there can be no permanent, individual, national, racial or planetary peace!"

THE HOLY BIBLE— ITS TEACHINGS AND SYMBOLS

by Chas. C. Smith, F.R.C.

Part 3—*Times and Seasons; The Gospel Age*

"Straight is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life; and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14)

"And He said unto them: Strive to enter in at the straight gate; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in and shall not be able." (Luke 7:23-24)

As young people, many of us were taught that when we reached the age of "accountability," we would see before us two roads. One would be broad and lead downward, and the other would be narrow and lead upward—to *eternal life*. The Bible states very plainly that this "Narrow Way" is not easily found; and that when it *is* found, is difficult to enter. Many people go through life knowing nothing whatsoever about this Narrow Way, and in this series of studies, we shall attempt to explain why this is so and how it may be remedied; although many volumes can and have been written about the various problems involved in entering and following this Spiritual Path.

In previous articles, we have spoken about the Essenes and their Egyptian origin, and the part that they played in the early church. They were those whom Paul called "the children of light and the children of the day." He also noted that they were well acquainted with "the times and seasons." (I Thes. 5:1-6) In contrast to this group, we note his letter to the Corinthians: "I, brethren, could not speak unto you as spiritual, but as unto carnal. * * * For while one saith: I am of Paul; and another: I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? (I Cor. 3:1-5)

In the early church, both of these groups were active and sharply divided. The "children of light" had an Essene background and had been taught the secrets of the kingdom—which they understood very clearly. As a result, their feet were firmly placed upon the Narrow Way—or the Spiritual Path. The other group was carnal (materialistic) consisting of "babes in Christ" entirely incapable of comprehending spiritual things. (I Cor. 2:14)

Those of the Essene group considered the "secrets of the kingdom" too sacred to risk their misinterpretation by carnal men. Now carnal people are not necessarily wicked people, but people who, through the five ordinary senses, are limited in their ability to comprehend spiritual matters. Therefore, when Jesus said: "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs; neither cast ye your pearls before swine," (Matt. 7:6) the Essene group knew exactly what He meant

by these words and were very careful to be guided accordingly. To the carnal group there was strength in numbers, therefore the more converts that could be brought into the church, the stronger it would be and the more good it could do. The breach between these two types of people gradually widened until by the year 325 A.D. two distinct groups had developed. The one group was quiet, retiring, meditative, studious, and had a knowledge of the times and seasons of God's Eternal Plan and Purpose. They also held as a sacred trust the understanding of the "Christ in you"; which knowledge had been kept sacred and secret for "ages and generations." (Col. 1:25-27) Since they knew the "times and seasons," they were quite willing to wait for God to accomplish His Purpose and Plan in His own good time. The other group were perfectly willing to let someone else do their thinking and studying for them and thus they became followers of leaders. These people wanted results *NOW!* They wanted to see the Kingdom of God *NOW!* To them any mention of mysteries and hidden meanings was just nonsense. They could be compared to the Israelites in the days of Samuel. They wanted kings to rule over them and their leaders to be prominent men in the community. They wanted to be seen and respected of men.

The Nicene Council

In the year 325 A.D., the Council of Nicaea was called by Constantine, the Roman Emperor. Early writers do not agree as to the conversion of Constantine to the Christian religion, but there is a certain amount of evidence that it was, to some extent, a political move on his part. Being a former general in the Roman armies, he recognized the fact that the Roman Legions were not the fighting units they had once been and that the Roman Empire was in its first stages of decay. While in Rome, Constantine had heard about, and perhaps seen with his own eyes, the early Christians go to their death with smiles on their faces and songs on their lips. He knew that this fearlessness was no longer in his soldiers, so therefore, if he could graft this new religion to his legions in some manner, he could conquer the world. With this in mind, his motto became: "By this sign conquer!"

The purpose of this meeting was to codify the teachings of the Christian church as believed and taught by the materialistic element in the church—for the Essene group had no part whatever in this Council. The teachings were codified as the Roman Law had been, and it was required that all church members must profess a belief in this code, or creed, as it was called.

In the Encyclopaedia Britannica, we find this quotation: "It (the Council) admitted the principle that the state might employ the secular arm to bring the Christian subjects of the Roman World

Empire under the newly codified faith. Thus the Nicene Council is an important stage in the development of the State-Church." Converts were now made at the point of a sword—or worse.

The Nominal Church now had what they were looking for. The Emperor himself was a member of the Church and they no longer had to argue religion for the soldiers could bring in the converts. The princes of the Church were equal in power and fine living to the princes of the Empire. Thus began the establishment of Christendom, or Christ's Kingdom, on the Earth.

Soon the Church dignitaries out-ranked the Apostles, and therefore little or no attention was given to the writings of Paul and other early leaders. At the second Council of Churches held in Constantinople in 553 A.D., it was decided to eliminate from these early records all references to the Law of Reincarnation. This teaching had become a nuisance. Fear held sway, and people were being scared into the church in great numbers. Here they were taught that man's eternal destiny depended upon his obedience to Church rules and regulations. If they were allowed to know that, through the Law of Reincarnation, they could return again in another material body after passing through the change called death, they would know that the priests did not have the control that they claimed over their future state of being. Thus, in the interests of good business and practical religion, the teaching of Reincarnation was eliminated from the Church doctrines.

What about Spirituality? According to the Apostle, Paul, people of the type who become involved in such a movement are "babes in Christ," and therefore incapable of spiritual perception. That is Paul's teaching—and perhaps he is right. Those who are *incapable* of comprehending a subject are really not to blame if they do not comprehend that subject.

We do not question the motive of the early church fathers that fostered the state-church movement or the motives of the leaders of the many churches that have come from that movement. In all of these groups there are many fine people that are honestly and sincerely living up to the light which they recognize and feel that they have within them. Yet in these groups the Spiritual Path is virtually unknown even though many of these people believe that they have been following that Path for years.

The Knowledge of good and evil

What became of the Essene Group? They are referred to in the 12th Chapter of Revelations as the woman who was carried away into the wilderness. They have been, for the most part, out of sight during the "Gospel Age."

Strangely enough, the Essene group, or the "children of light,"

who were the real leaders of the early church, did not seriously oppose the course that their less developed brethren were taking even though they knew that this merger of church and state would lead to the dark ages. There is a line of teaching in the Bible that the "inner circle" knows and understands which seems to have entirely escaped the attention of the outer congregation. This teaching starts in Genesis and follows through to Revelations. In Gen. 3:22, we read: "The Lord God said, Behold the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil." Now it is evident that something is wrong here for a singular subject does not take a plural predicate. Since the translators did not distinguish between the Supreme Being and Divine Beings, (II Peter 1:4) we have several such mistakes in translation. This verse should read: "A Lord God said, Behold the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil." How many "Lord Gods" do we have? We shall learn, as we progress, that there are many of them; but here is the point we wish to make. It was the knowledge of *both* good and evil that made man as a Lord God. In the story of the prodigal son as recorded in Luke 15:11-32, what was it that made the wayward son want to return to his father's house? It was a first-hand knowledge of both good and evil brought upon himself by his own sins. What will make each one of us want to find the way back home? Exactly the same thing.

To us, the troubles that *we* have brought upon ourselves, our friends, and loved ones sometimes seem to loom as terrible things; but in the sight of our Heavenly Father, we are not condemned because He knows that, sooner or later, our very remorse will cause us to turn once again to the Father's House and His table laid out before us. It may be done in this one incarnation or it may take several more. It all depends upon the individual. The father did not send a messenger to the prodigal son urging him to come home, nor did he punish him when he did return. So does our own Heavenly Father, knowing the punishments that we have inflicted upon ourselves, only stand with open arms to welcome us Home once again.

How does one find this path back home? At present it is still quite true that "few there be that find it," but that pathway is clearly pointed out in the Bible—even if the translations are not as good as they might be. Those that *do* find it, will find that the treasures laid up on Earth will not be of any assistance. The farther we have strayed from the original perfection, the longer the road will be back home, and before we reach the goal, we shall be dusty, tired and bruised—for there are many pitfalls on the way—all not clearly marked. Do not look for a short cut—there are none. Remember the Scripture that says: "He that entereth not by the door into the sheep-fold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."

(John 10:1) We repeat again—there are no short cuts. Paul tells us that "thieves . . . shall not inherit the Kingdom of God." We might as well face facts.

* * *

The Second Baptism

In our previous article we mentioned that the Spiritual Path comprised three baptisms or initiations. Having described the first of these baptisms, we now go on to the second. Paul gives the key to this degree in his second letter to Timothy. "*Study* to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Tim. 2:15) No one has ever passed over this section of the Path that was *not* a student. The question of what to study and where to find the right material will be answered after we find out a little more about the problems involved as we travel the road home.

Jesus spent about three and one-half years traveling about the country with His twelve disciples. It is recorded that, when speaking to the people, He spoke in parables in order that they would not get the full meaning of His words, (Mark 4:10-13) but when He was alone with His disciples, He would explain the inner teachings behind the parables. Now what did Jesus teach; and what was the real meaning behind His words? None of His parables are fully explained in the Bible so that leaves us in the dark as well, but we do have certain keys, and if we have absorbed some of the Spirit of Truth, we can learn many things. Here we have the assurance of Jesus that if we seek we *shall* find.

When we read: "I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father," it is evident that at least one of the reasons that Jesus had in performing His many wonderful works was to teach the disciples how to do the same things. Thus the disciples were *students* learning under the great Teacher. It is generally assumed that Jesus was teaching His disciples religion; but this is not correct. He was teaching them *science*. The law of conservation of energy applies just as much on the higher plane as it does on the material plane, and nothing that would be called a miracle can be performed without taking this law into consideration. That is the reason that people sometimes have little success in getting their prayers answered.

Religion—a scientific study

"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the

dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permit." (Heb. 6:1-3) These are things that we learn at the beginning of the Path before we may go higher. We must ask ourselves how may we know and understand. Every one of the teachings involves a Cosmic Law which must be understood before expressions such as are used in this Scripture can be impressed clearly upon our mortal consciousness. This is only the beginning.

Yes, the second stage of the Spiritual Path is a period of scientific study; a study of the science of ontology—that is—the science of being. In this study, we learn that man has a dual consciousness comprised of the outer or materialistic consciousness of the five senses of the carnal mind, and the inner, or Divine, consciousness which is sometimes called the Christ consciousness or the Master within. This inner life is a part of God and is immortal, and is clothed with a soul that is in the process of development. The soul is *not* immortal, but may become so if the divine nature of the inner man is made the controlling influence of the outer life. Spiritual development is nothing, more or less, than doing just that. It is a natural process and not hard to accomplish if one does not retard it by foolish actions and beliefs.

There are Celestial bodies

In this process of spiritual development, there is one important point which should be considered at this time. In the 15th chapter of I Corinthians, Paul makes some very interesting statements about the future life. In translation, some words have possibly been misconstrued, but this passage is not too bad. It would appear that, in Paul's time, there were some people who believed that the body in which they were then living would, someday, be re-assembled and that their soul would inhabit the same body. In response to this belief, Paul had this to say: "Thou *fool* * * * thou sowest not that body that shall be * * * but God giveth it (the soul) a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed his own body!"

It is very evident from this statement that when the physical body returns to dust, it is gone for all time, but that God will give "it" (the soul) a new body. Paul also calls our attention to the fact that there are two kinds of bodies available, and that each one will get that which is appropriate in the eyes of God. "There are celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial." What controls the decision as to the type of body each one is ready for? Here is the point of spiritual stock-taking. Is our soul development that of the natural man, or is it that of the inner or spiritual man? God will not make the mistake of putting a carnal soul into a spiritual body, and since the *spiritual path* has only been found by a few, we may be sure that the majority of the bodies given will be Earthly bodies which must live on this

plane of existence until they develop spirituality. "That was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual." And further on in the same chapter: "flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God." And also: "this mortal must put on immortality." Thus we may be sure of having failed our spiritual examinations at the end of the last embodiment, having been assigned to another material body in that resurrection which is now generally called "reincarnation"—which condition will exist until we graduate consciously and willingly from this Earth. Again we say—*there are no short cuts!* This is not some form of heathen doctrine, but an integral part of the Christian religion. We cannot take part of Paul's teaching without taking the whole of it.

Spirituality is not religious fervor

The common understanding of the meaning of the word 'spirituality' is entirely wrong. Spiritual development, usually connected with the "goody-goody" type of religion, is not a matter of religion at all—at least, not the sectarian type of religion. The person who has a sectarian complex is usually a follower of some leader, and as Paul points out—a follower is carnal and *not* spiritual. (I Cor. 3:1-4)

In organizing a large business venture, a man is usually very careful in the selection of those men and women who are to hold important positions in his enterprise. The background of these people is carefully checked and particular attention given to their accomplishments as well as their undeveloped possibilities.

Each one of us has been chosen to play an important part in a great program. Each individual has undeveloped possibilities peculiar to that individual, and therefore no other person in the whole human evolution can assume that one's particular position in the Kingdom of God. The record of the individual's part on the path of his own development is written in his own heart and is entirely different from that of any other man or woman on the Earth or in the Heavenly Realms. To find one's hidden possibilities and develop them is *spiritual development*. People who are interested in the development of their spiritual nature have certain things in common. They are not *followers*; but often become *leaders*. They have a *confidence* in their own destiny that enables them to overcome great obstacles. They are *sure* of themselves; and give little thought to the approval or criticism of their fellowmen. They depend upon the "*still small voice*" within for inspiration and approval. They are *unselfish* and work for the good of *all* people without consideration of personal reward.

While many people of this type may be associated with religious groups, they are never sectarian or narrow-minded in their religious views. They come from all walks of life; from all races; and from all periods of time. It is from this class that we receive our great

inventors, our statesmen, our poets, our composers, our philosophers, our religious leaders, our business leaders, doctors, scientists, teachers, and all who have worked for the advancement and welfare of mankind. These people have developed a *degree of spirituality*; have developed their talents for the good of all. Many more have worked in the homes as wives and mothers, and in community projects for the benefit of others.

It has been said by one of Earth's great ones that "all men are created free and equal." In the sight of man, this is just an ideal and is never true; but let us emphasize most strongly that it is *always* true in the sight of Almighty God. The prodigal son is just as near and dear to the Father as he that stayed at home. Ignorance of this God-feeling toward His children has perhaps the greatest retarding effect upon spiritual development, as there is a strong tendency in most people to glory in the feeling of being "holier than thou."

It was this feeling that caused the fall of the great Lucifer, (Isa. 14:12-17) and is, no doubt, the most dangerous pitfall on the path of spiritual development. "God, I thank Thee that I am not as other men," (Luke 18:11) is not a prayer that is limited to the Pharisee of Bible times. Many times we hear expressions such as: "We are good and you are bad." "We are going to Heaven and you are going to hell." "We are Christians and you are heathens." "We are God's chosen people." According to the Apostle Paul, (I Cor. 3:1-4) where this feeling exists, carnality reigns and spirituality has never started. Jesus said: "Every one that exalteth himself shall be abased." (Luke 18:14) "That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." (Luke 16:15)

When a new religious sect is formed, there is usually a new list of sins tabulated and given to the followers of that sect. They are told that their chances of "going to Heaven" depends upon how well they follow these rules which are nearly always negative—that is, they are a list of "do-nots." Spirituality is a *positive* force and is never negative. "Goodness" will never produce spirituality. There are many fine people who have no conception whatever of what the word means, but spirituality *will* produce goodness, for as it grows and expands, it will 'crowd out' the undesirable habits of the flesh nature. This should be a natural growth, and not forced—for compulsion is *never* approved by the Spirit of God.

Yes, the Path is a straight and narrow path, and up to the present time, it can still be said: "few there be that find it." *But times are changing!*

* * *

Next issue: The third stage of the Path; answers to some questions; pre-destination.

THE NATURE OF RELIGION

What, truly, is RELIGION? Is it an opiate for the weary senses wherein the seeming reality of all the distresses of the external world may be, for the moment, forgotten? No! Religion is based on a *seven-fold principle*, and mankind, for the most part, including even advanced students of the Law, have not fully understood its *seven-fold Nature*.

Let us begin at the beginning!

The Soul, surfeited with the enjoyments of the senses, and impelled by the Teacher in the heart—for one reason or another—comes to its knees before its Creator; and here you have the action of the First Ray in the invocation of the bemuddled consciousness to know the Will of God. There is no sense in proceeding further without understanding; any more than it would be for a man in the world to rush out and try to accomplish an endeavor without first asking the designer for his plan. There, the statement: "Thy Will be done on Earth as it is done in Heaven," followed by the *acceptance* of the *God Will* through the consciousness becomes the *desire for understanding*. This is the teaching of the *First Ray*.

In the radiation of the *Second Ray*, the soul begins to learn the Law of Cause and Effect; the direction of energy and its recoil—which is the pleasure or pain occasioned by the qualification of the life energy. A little later, the Divine Design of the Hierarchy is explained, and the place where each shepherd, each religious teacher, and each student belongs in the Great Plan. It is the Place of Illumination where, after asking for the Will of God, the revelation of the Divine Scheme of things is presented to the earnest soul.

Then, through the portals of the *Third Ray*, the aspirant passes and endeavors to make his understanding of practical benefit to his fellowman—developing tolerance, understanding, and a sincere, deep interest in the spiritual growth and welfare of the race to which he belongs.

He then passes into the *Fourth Sphere*, and looking upon the sordidness and distortion of the life principle which has become manifest as his body and environment, he recognizes that Truth and Beauty, Harmony and Perfection, are God-ordained as part of the religion of the awakened man, and he begins, through the moulding of his thought, the purifying power of feeling, and the direction of the Sacred Fire, to externalize that which should be a credit and an example to all life.

In the *Fifth Sphere*, within the same religion, he passes to the illumined understanding of the mathematical accuracy that lies within creation, precipitation, etherialization and levitation, and all these

powers called 'mystic' by the mind of the undisciplined.

Having received within himself, from his own one religion mind you, the gifts of all the preceding Rays, he comes into the Presence of the *Sixth Sphere*, and again he kneels—but this time in thanksgiving and devotion for the Gifts of Life. Then the Hosannas rise from the heart and lips; the Aves fill the atmosphere; "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow" becomes the illumined heart prayer of the initiate of the Sixth Sphere, and having expressed his gratitude to God through devotion to his Christ Self, to the Masters, and to his fellowman, he then passes on into the final activity of his religion. Whether he be Moslem, Jew, Christian, Metaphysician—whatever label he gives to his religion—he then enters the Seventh Sphere.

Here in the *Seventh Sphere*, the words of the Master Jesus ring through his consciousness: "Hitherto the Father worketh; but now the Father and I work!" and all of these gifts of energy, and all of the teachings of the Brotherhood, and all the beauty and sacrifice, illumination and devotion gained by the lifestream becomes its responsibility to offer on the altar of humanity in Ordered Service—the watchword of the Mighty Saint Germain. Within this Seventh Sphere, knowing the Will of God; illumined by understanding; loving his fellowman, the elemental kingdom, the Angels, Devas, Cherubim and Seraphim, filled with the beauty and opulence which is his birth-right; understanding the powers of centripetal and centrifugal force; heeding the cry with a heart overflowing with good—not with the lips but through the feelings—that is the man through whom the Ceremonial Worship of the Seventh Ray shall be effected.

He is the Bridge between the Kingdoms of the Angels, the Elementals, and his Brother-man. He is the Bridge between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Earth. That is he—whose outstretched arms form within himself the MALTESE CROSS OF FREEDOM—the parallel kingdoms of Angels, man and elementals making the cross-bar—with the Masters and the Powers of the Sacred Fire through his own body into the Earth making the upright bar. That is the man who *understands Religion*.

What, in *your Religion*, distinguishes you from the masses? Inner Peace, perhaps! But it is more than that!

Worship has begun to mean relaxation of the senses; and this can be easily understood considering the pressures of the modern day. Each one longs for the Peace and Sanctuary of God—away from the thralldom of human creations. But, do not be unduly concerned. Every man is strong in *one point* out of the seven, because each person is *one of seven types*. Saint Francis of Assisi found His God in a field; Saint Augustine in a cathedral; Saint Paul walking along a dusty road with bitterness in His heart toward His own Great Master.

Each day, take your soul through the Seven Temples, one in each Sphere. Discipline that soul! Abide for a time in the Temple least responsive to your own vibrations. If you are proud and stiff-necked, and your knees know not the capacity to bend, kneel in the great Temple of the First Sphere and, in great surrender, learn to say: "Thy Will, my God, be done!"

If you are mentally lazy, and prefer to have another design your religion for you, enter into the heart of the Temple in the Second Sphere and *demand* God's Illumination from within. Do not leave that Temple until Understanding—not born of another's words, but of your own, makes service a happiness. Do you know why men make the practice of religion a duty? Because they are building their faith on the words of someone else, and the practice of their religion is performed through duty and fear without feeling its truth—but just because some other part of life has said so. Oh, when your own Heart Flame has revealed to you the *cause behind the action*, you will serve like the Angels—your feelings will be happy and your heart will sing.

Do you find that loving your fellowman is a chore? Then keep your soul centered in the *Third Sphere* until you hear the cry in the heart of that fellowman; until you sense his struggle, his hope, his need. Do not leave it until you *feel that Love*.

Do you believe in austerity, self-denial, rigid surrender of all your senses to the penitential doctrine—built into your sweet lives through the early centuries when the hair shirt and the Vow of Poverty were considered a virtue? Then abide for a while in the Fourth Realm. See the garments of the Angels, and the Beauty of your own Celestial Mother, and the Divine Perfection of the Heart of the God-Self—not for vanity; but because the world *needs Beauty*. Suppose all the flowers were made square—or black—or green—with no perfume, conserving on the energy required to put color and scent within the flowers, where would man be? Oh, it is good to pour beauty into the world when the motive is to bring happiness to life.

Then, on your journey into the Fifth Sphere where God's Divine Truth abides, watch the combination of the Rays to make certain powers available. Look at Love mathematically and see how it draws the goodness of life toward itself. Ask the Master to show you a vortex of hate and see how it repels money, friends, and every good thing, and confirm your faith by practical witness.

And the Sixth Temple—oh, you do not have to be urged to enter here. For the past two thousand years, man has spent much time here in devotional service to the great Master Jesus, and in praise to God for His goodness. Here you can elaborate on the manifold blessings

in your own life and pour forth your praise and thanksgiving for the goodness of God and His Messengers. Where would you be without life—without a heartbeat—without a platform of earth beneath your feet—without a sun to shine in the sky—without water? You would not even have a body were it not for parents. People say that they have nothing to do, and yet this application would take you through three hours of acknowledgment, praise and thanksgiving for life itself. When you have spent a certain portion of time in sending your love and gratitude to God, you might start thinking of the channels that brought you into Truth—the minister that baptized you—think of the priest and the rabbi and the Sunday School teacher—and the patient school teacher who first taught you loyalty and awareness. Then think of your Spiritual Teachers—each one that opened the door to Truth. While in this contemplative mood, you might think of your Celestial Friends who have sustained you ever since you came into being from the Heart of God.

When you have finished this contemplation, you will find that you have filled your feeling world with happiness and joy, and a great desire to give a balance back to life will enfold you as you enter the great Seventh Sphere where, in order to become that Bridge from the human to the Divine, you will want to give your energy in decrees, songs and visualizations in order to become an example of what a FREE MAN should be.

That is Religion.

OF TIME AND ANGELS

by Robert L. Jordan

Reliances that depend upon earthly things and the mere standards of the mundane world are sometimes cut adrift, as though by Angels. Nonetheless, man (shorn of these short-sighted reliances) continues to move, like the heart-flow of God's Eternity, in the life-stream of Infinite Love.

Man has found that many social welfare benefits are transient, depending not only upon the variable price level and the cost of living, but upon the unseen accumulation of good—in *Heaven* where there is maintained that ledger of Good pertaining to individual life-streams. This Good is subject to neither the passage of man's time nor to his institutions. This is well known, for we believe that this accumulation of Good is a virtual storage battery. Here is potential energy needing only the positive act, feeling, thought, or push—a word, to release it into motion and physical manifestation. Beyond the physical realm we see this Good; it waits like a patient confidant

—a living part, possession, and account of its owner. Its realization is offset many times due mainly to inaction; yet it does not rust away. It is held in the arms of Infinite Love—sustained in the heart-flow of Goodness Itself. In the scheme of things, we see that the realization of the Good on Earth awaits the will of man, who is the originator of *some* good, in his own account. Hence man is an imitator of his Creator. Yet—*Time* is the denominator of his acts; delay is the friction of mankind as he passively awaits the fulfillment of good.

Where is this feeling of beauty, of the original Divine Concept, and of each individual's fulfillment? What is our contribution to be? Let us look into the heart of our own destiny, our own plan. How are we to sustain the feeling—the Hope? In order to sustain the current in our physical worlds, we must first generate the current. If we lack the know-how, we must call an expert. Each Guardian Angel will reveal the Divine Plan for each individual heart. The inner voice will say: "do unto others, as you would have others *do* unto you!" This is the secret of success.

In the springtime of life, on what shall the heart and mind of man rely? Man is always reaching upward—higher than the mountain of his present desire; higher than the summit's star; beyond the horizon of this world. There is no limit to either man's strivings or his reaching. In the world of creation, man is always somewhere. In a continuum of striving and reaching, what is the peak beyond—even beyond Angels? The peak of man's arrivings is itself on the move—beckoning ever on—and on.

Look now to man's aim! Man's glimmering objective is universal. It is ever-receding and expanding; forever beckoning onward; stretching into the infinity of what can be and what is. How do we get on the track? It is the track of Time! How do we keep on the straight road? It is the path of least resistance in the Truth of the heart—which *knows* good. Our conductor is an open-minded approach, impelled by Hope, wound upon the mainspring of our Source. Here is the Universal Man! *Here and now* is Man in his flight through Time. Angels bear the feeling to the heart and mind; here is the destiny of Man. The Voice of God whispers its meaning—*alone* for us to hear. *Soft! Soft! List' to It speak!* Of what is this beyond pettiness; of what beyond mere dreams? It is that which *IS REAL* in the heart of the Stream. It is the reality of *NOW*—ever *NOW* in the heart of Creation. What we must bring out *NOW*, in verity and in Truth, is all that is *GOOD*, in heart, in feeling, and in *fact*. We are *filled* with *worlds* of these things—communicated to us softly. Here is the justification of Time and its *train!* Like Love in the Spring, it is everlastingly Good—the mainspring of Time—set by its Creator and wound by Angels—and *by Man*—set to his Task.

ADORATION TO MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS

On August 15th, we celebrate the anniversary of the Ascension of the Beloved Mary, Mother of Jesus, and it is only fitting that on that day we should turn our attention, in Holy Love, to the One who was the channel whereby our Beloved Master Jesus was brought into his last embodiment to become the living Example of the Christ made manifest through the form of man. We ask each one to contemplate the following words as the attention is focused upon this Lovely Lady of Heaven.

Blessed Mother Mary,
 In Thy Love and Grace
 And Thy Mother Feeling,
 Enfold all the race;
 Consecrate us, Mary Dear,
 Body, spirit, soul and mind;
 Let Thy Healing Essence
 Bless now all mankind.
 Raise mankind's attention
 To Thy Realms on high,
 'Til they know God's Presence,
 And on Him rely
 To grant now each one's desire
 To His great Perfection be;
 And stand forth in glory—
 Free eternally.
 Blessed Master Jesus;
 Mother Mary Dear;
 Help us give obedience
 In our service here—
 Raising all God's Life on Earth
 Until, just like Thee, we win
 Our Ascension's Vict'ry
 By God's Light within.

May be sung to tune: "In the hour of trial."

SHAKESPEARE AND TRUTH

One of the most controversial subjects of modern times is that of the authorship of the Shakespearian plays. A book published by Professor Gilbert Slater entitled "*Seven Shakespeares*" is written around the claims of seven different contenders for this literary crown. The more authentic sources name *Francis Bacon* as the only rightful author. In his book "*The Martyrdom of Francis Bacon*," published in London, England, Alfred Dodd tells the following story:

Upon returning to England from much research in many countries, Francis Bacon planned to give England something worth while to think and talk about—"Greek thought, Greek methods, new ideas, new words, poetry, drama." Accordingly he "founded a Secret Literary Society, the members being sworn to the allegiance of Pallas Athena, Goddess of Wisdom" who presided "over the whole intellectual and moral side of life. She was the patroness of the useful and elegant arts," and imparted "to her devotees the virtues of Prudence, Courage and Perseverance." She was accredited with having been the inventor of musical instruments. The Olive Wreath, denoting Peace, was her emblem. She was a Creator and Preserver. She was depicted in Greek art with a helmet on her head, and she held the Spear of Knowledge in her right hand—poised to strike at the Serpent of Ignorance writhing under her foot. The helmet denoted that she waged war against Sloth and Ignorance. She was usually placed on the Greek Temples with a Golden Spear in her hand. When the morning rays of the sun glinted on the weapon, causing it to apparently tremble, the common people were in the habit of saying, smilingly: 'Athena is shaking her spear again!' She was known as the 'Spear Shaker.' Those who became members of the Secret Literary Society which centered around the ideals of the Goddess Athena were "known as the Knights of the Helmet." During the ceremony, the initiate was "capped with the Helmet of Pallas to denote he was an 'Invisible' in the fight for Human Advancement. A large spear was placed in his hand—indicative of a pen—for he was to *shake the Spear of Knowledge* at the *Dragons of Ignorance*. He then became a 'Spear-Shaker,' and at the head of this little band of 'Spear-Shakers' was 'Shake-Speare' himself, Athena's visible representative on Earth—Francis Bacon."

Now this Society comprised many members on the continent of Europe as well as in England. In that day, it was an indictable offense for one to attempt proselytism of any kind—especially if a new idea was contrary to the established orthodox system of that time. Thus it was that Francis Bacon, being an author, writer, traveller, and a generally learned man, conceived the idea of conveying the inner

teachings of life to this group away from the central focus by means of cipher code, of which he was an authority, his book on this subject still being recognized as an official text-book to this day. Into his plays, he cleverly wrote the esoteric teachings, and his students, having a pre-arranged code, were thus able to read in his works, the Laws of God and of Life, to assist them in the development of their own spiritual natures.

He chose the name of *William Shakespeare* because it symbolized that it was the *Will of "I AM"* (God's Will) that he *shake the spear* of Wisdom at the darkness of ignorance. His patroness, Pallas Athena, also being the Goddess of Truth, it is not by chance that throughout his plays continually runs the Law of Life and statements that can be paralleled with many found in the Holy Bible. This should not be considered too strange when we realize that there is only *One Truth* regardless of the form in which we find it.

In I Corinthians 12:4-12, we find, in essence, these words: "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit . . . there are diversities of administration . . . there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God that worketh in all . . . to one is given . . . the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge . . . to another faith . . . to another the gifts of healing . . . to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy . . . But all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit . . . For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are *one body*; so also is *Christ*."

In his play, "Henry V," Shakespeare wrote:

"As many arrows, loosed several ways,
Fly to one mark;
As many several ways meet in one town;
As many fresh streams meet in one salt sea;
As many lines close in the dial's center;
So many a thousand actions, once afoot,
End in one purpose, and be all well borne
Without defeat."

Proverbs 20:28 and 21:1-3 reads as follows:

"Mercy and truth preserve the king; and his throne is upholden by mercy . . . The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord . . . Every way of a man is right in his own eyes; but the Lord pondereth the hearts. To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice."

William Shakespeare, in his play, "The Merchant of Venice," has *Portia* say these lines:

"The quality of mercy is not strained;
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath; it is twice blessed;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown;
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the fear and dread of kings.
But mercy is above this sceptred sway,
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings;
It is an attribute of God Himself,
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice."

These are two well-known passages from Shakespeare's works. Another, of course, is the advice of Polonius to his son, found in "Hamlet," which has many parallels in our Christian teachings.

"Give thy thoughts no tongue,
Nor any unproportioned thought his act.
Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar;
The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,
Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel;
But do not dull thy palm with entertainment
Of each new-hatched unfledged comrade. Beware
Of entrance to a quarrel, but, being in,
Bear it that the opposed may be beware of thee.
Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice;
Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.
Neither a borrower nor a lender be;
For loan oft loses both itself and friend,
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.
This above all; to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

The Book of Proverbs, perhaps, provides the greatest source of this type of advice for the young, particularly, but equally true for people of all ages:

"Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles." (Prov. 21:33)

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." (Prov. 22:1)

"A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger." (Prov. 15:1)

"He that hath knowledge spareth his words." (Prov. 17:27)

"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." (Prov. 18:24)

These are only a few of these most potent instructions that provide a code of conduct for all.

And what of Francis Bacon? What of William Shakespeare? For a man to be able to write of kings and queens and royalty in general; and courts of law and affairs concerning only the intellectual strata of that time, he *must* have had access to considerable inside information or was able to experience many of these things himself. The pseudo-Shakespeare did not have that association, but Francis Bacon, being of royal heritage, did have the opportunity of knowing first-hand of the intrigues existing in the court circles. It is the theory of Dr. Orville Owen, in his research into the life of Francis Bacon, that both Francis Bacon and the Earl of Essex were the children of Queen Elizabeth by her husband, Lord Leicester. History tells a different story, but that is another subject.

Today we know that the great Ascended Master Saint Germain, who *was* Sir Francis Bacon, and who is the Divine Hierarch in charge of the New Age now dawning upon the Earth, *was* the author of the Shakespearean works, and also many others published under various great literary names of the time. A number of Spenser's and Marlowe's works may be accredited to this maligned figure of history. Sufficient it is to say that Saint Germain (whose Divine Complement is the *Lady Portia, Goddess of Justice*) is now inspiring all who will listen toward a fuller life filled with Freedom, Justice, Mercy, Understanding, and *Truth*. He ascended into His great Perfection on May 1st, 1684, and was crowned King of the New Golden Age on May 1st, 1954. May all mankind come into a greater understanding and knowledge of our Great Benefactor and thus become the conscious recipients of His Love, His Peace, and all the Qualities of the Godhead which He represents.

GOD ETERNALIZED

Ideas emanate from God, the Father. He is the *First Cause*. Within, He creates; and from His own Heart projects Divine Ideas into the universe. Therefore, are Causes born in Heaven's Realm. The God Intelligence fills the universe with more potential God Ideas than there are grains of sand on the sea-shore or drops of water in the ocean, or stars in the heavens. These are the seeds of future greatness, and from observation it has been found that we do not come anywhere near utilizing or unfolding the potential perfection that is ours for the asking.

Man himself is a God Idea individualized; the abstract externalized; the Word made flesh. It is the Divine Plan that the God Idea should be utilized and unfolded *through* man. To each individual was given free will to unfold the God potential; to develop the germ idea into its future greatness according to the temperament peculiar to that individual.

In the Edenic state of consciousness all went well. The Father (Idea) expressed *through* the son, the externalizer, the individual being. Man was the channel *through which* the God Power created in Its own right. But as time went on, man, having the gift of free will, began to put more and more attention upon the thing created than upon the *Power of Creation* flowing *through* him; more attention upon *himself* as *Cause* rather than upon himself as *the channel through which the Cause operated*. He began to say to himself and those about him: "See *ME!* See who *I* am! See what *I* have made or done!" and *not*: "What hath *God* wrought?" (through me) as was said by Samuel Morse when the telegraph mechanism became operative; *nor* "I, of Myself, can do nothing; it is the *Father within* that doeth the works!" as was said by the Master Jesus.

Ego developed; and self-will was substituted for God Will. The individual became more and more *man* and less and less God *through* man. He began to look upon his man-self as the real Self rather than as the "grail" of the real Self. Thus vanished the Edenic consciousness, and he was forced to sustain his man-self by the man-self method—the 'sweat of the brow.' So the long period of involution of the Spirit within flesh began.

"and 'round,

Wall upon wall, the gross flesh hems it in—

This perfect clear perception of the Truth.

A baffling and prevailing carnal mesh

Binds it and makes all error."

Fortunately, while deeply enmeshed in flesh, the true Spirit-self